

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A fence system comprising:

a horizontal mounting surface; and

a plurality of individual fiber cement members attached to the horizontal mounting surface, wherein each individual member has an upper end, a lower end, a front surface, a back surface and a pair of sides adjoining the front surface and back surface, wherein the front surface and the back surface of each individual member is imprinted to form an imprinted front surface and an imprinted back surface, wherein such imprinted front surface and such imprinted back surface are not formed by molding the front and back surfaces or applying an external laminate, and wherein the plurality of individual fiber cement members comprise fiber cement having fibers, wherein the fiber cement members are cut to size and shaped for use in the fence system prior to curing of said fiber cement, wherein the plurality of individual members do not exhibit any substantial fraying of the fibers along the surfaces of the plurality of individual members after curing.
2. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of individual fiber cement members have at least one surface that has a pre-finish thereon.
3. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of individual fiber cement members resemble a picket.
4. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the plurality of individual fiber cement members resemble a wooden picket.

5. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 3, wherein the upper end of at least one individual fiber cement member is formed into a shape selected from the group consisting of square cut, dog-eared, French gothic, scalloped, pointed and saw-toothed.

6. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the front surface and back surface of at least one individual fiber cement member has a finish that resembles wood.

7. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the front surface and back surface of at least one individual fiber cement member has a finish that resembles masonry.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement forming the plurality of individual members incorporates a low-density additive.

10. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 9, wherein the low-density additive comprises micro spheres.

11. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 9, wherein the low-density additive comprises volcanic ash.

12. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the fiber cement forming the plurality of individual fiber cement members comprise moisture resistant cellulose fibers.

13. (Previously presented) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the horizontal mounting surface has a longitudinal axis, and the plurality of individual fiber cement members are positioned in a manner such that a longitudinal axis of the individual fiber cement members is substantially perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the horizontal mounting surface.

14. (Original) The fence system of Claim 1, wherein the mounting surface comprises a rail.

15. (Currently amended) A fence system, comprising:
a horizontal mounting surface; and
a plurality of individual members attached to the horizontal mounting surface, wherein each individual member has an upper end, a lower end, a front surface, a back surface and a pair of sides adjoining the front surface and back surface, and wherein the plurality of individual members comprise fiber cement having fibers, ~~and~~ wherein the front surface and back surface of the individual members contain an are embossed with a pattern such that one or more fibers along the front surface and the back surface are depressed relative to other fibers in the fiber cement, wherein the upper end of the plurality of individual members are formed into a shape selected from the group consisting of square cut, dog-eared, French gothic, scalloped, pointed and saw-toothed, said shape being formed prior to curing of said fiber cement, wherein the plurality of individual members do not exhibit any substantial fraying of the fibers along the surfaces of the plurality of individual members after curing.

16-24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently amended) A picket for use in a fence system comprising fiber cement, wherein the picket has an upper end, a lower end, a front surface, a back surface and a pair of sides adjoining the front surface and back surface, ~~and~~ wherein the picket has a pattern formed on the front surface and back surface of the picket, so as to form an imprinted front surface and an imprinted back surface ~~the pattern being applied to the front surface and to the back surface of the picket substantially simultaneously by two embossing rollers, wherein such imprinted front surface and such imprinted back surface are not formed by molding the front and back surfaces~~

or applying an external laminate, and wherein the picket being made into a desired shape for use as said picket prior to curing of said fiber cement, whereby the picket does not exhibit any substantial fraying of the fibers along the front surface, the back surface and the side surfaces after curing.

26. (Original) The picket of Claim 25, wherein at least one exterior surface of the picket has a pre-finish thereon.

27. (Original) The picket of Claim 26, wherein the at least one exterior surface of the picket is painted to resemble the color of wood.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Original) The picket of Claim 25, wherein at least one exterior surface of the picket is stained.

30. (Original) The picket of Claim 25, wherein at least one exterior surface of the picket is textured.

31. (Original) The picket of Claim 25, wherein the at least one exterior surface of the picket is textured to resemble wood.

32. (Original) The picket of Claim 25 having a surface finish that resembles masonry.

33. (Original) The picket of Claim 25, wherein the picket can be nailed onto a fence rail.

34-67 (Cancelled)

68. (Currently amended) An elongated member having a front surface and a back surface, and made of fiber cement, wherein the elongated member has a pattern formed on the front surface and back surface, such that one or more fibers along the front surface and the back surface are depressed relative to other fibers in the fiber cement, the pattern not formed by

~~molding the front and back surfaces or applying an external laminate, being applied to the front surface and to the back surface substantially simultaneously by two embossing rollers, and~~
wherein the elongated member in its uncured state is sized and configured for use as a picket for a fence, and wherein the elongated member in a cured state is secured to a mounting surface of a fence by a fastener passing through the front surface and back surface of the elongated member and into the mounting surface.

69. (Original) The elongate member of Claim 68 having a first end, said first end has a dog-eared shape, which is formed in the elongate member in its uncured state.

70. (Original) The elongate member of Claim 68 having a pre-finish on at least one surface.

71. (Original) The elongate member of Claim 68 having a length of between 6 and 8 feet.

72-78 (Cancelled).